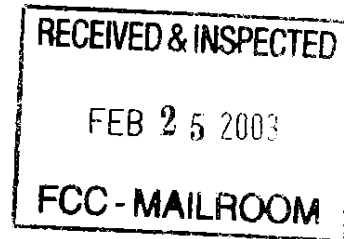


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February 18, 2003

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEB 27 2003
Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

I worked in the telecommunications industry for many years and have seen what an impact it has on the economy. Telecommunications plays a vital role to the economy in good times and in bad.

I have been following the different phases of Qwest's attempts to enter our state's long distance market. I'm hopeful to see a change in the long distance business as soon as possible. I realize that many steps have to be taken, but in my opinion the sooner the better.

Unfortunately, real choice for consumers seems to be coming later rather than sooner. Phone customers in other states are saving money by being able to pick from all long distance providers. When will we have that chance here in South Dakota?

I hope we will experience the benefits of Qwest's long distance services soon. I urge you to join me in supporting real long distance competition.

Sincerely,

Robert Nesje
P. O. Box 168
Flandreau, SD 57028

[Faint, mostly illegible text and a signature line with a handwritten '0' at the end.]